

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District
Charter Contract 2025 - 2030
Effie Kokrine Charter School

THIS AGREEMENT is made between Effie Kokrine Charter School, hereinafter "Charter School" and the Fairbanks North Star Borough School Board, hereinafter "School Board".

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District
520 - Fifth Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Effie Kokrine
601 Loftus
Fairbanks, AK 99709

WHEREAS, Charter School desires to operate within the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District (hereafter "School District") in conformance with Alaska Statutes 14.03.250 - 290 and School District policies and procedures; and

WHEREAS, the School Board reviewed and approved Charter School's charter renewal on Nov. 19, 2024, for a period of ten years, including school years FY2025 to FY2035;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements contained in this contract, the parties agree as follows:

Charter School shall provide an educational program in the School District subject to the terms and conditions of this Contract, commencing on the 1st day of July for school year 2025. Services will be provided in accordance with the Charter School Calendar identified herein.

Any modifications to the approved Charter Application/Renewal will be submitted in writing to the School District by April 01 for the following school year.

Compliance with Regulatory Requirements:

The Charter School warrants that it will comply with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations applicable to public schools and all requirements imposed by School District policies and regulations.

1. **Description of Educational Program:**

The Charter School shall provide an education program that shall advance students' mastery of basic skill areas, including mathematics, science, health, reading, language arts, and social studies, appropriate to the age of students in the program. Provision will also be made for physical education, music, art, and instructional technology within the education program. The educational program shall be designed utilizing the curricula as defined by the Charter School application.

a. Description of Program:

Effie Kokrine comprises two main education programs, the junior high and high school. In the junior high program, all academic content areas (with the exception of math) are woven into thematic *modules* that follow the school curriculum spiral. In the high school program, Fairbanks North Star Borough School District Curriculum is implemented utilizing the *AK Standards for Culturally Responsive Schools Curriculum Guidelines*. Effie Kokrine follows a modified version of the FNSBSD-approved calendar, beginning school one week early in order to take a one-week break for fall subsistence activities.

2. Specific Levels of Achievement:

The Charter School students participate in the State of Alaska-mandated assessments.

3. Admission Policy and Procedures:

Students fill out an online application and then complete an interview. Effie has rolling admission and does not use a lottery.

4. Administrative Policies:

- Academic Policy Committee -

The Effie Academic Policy Committee supervises the academic operation of the school and ensures the fulfillment of the mission of the school. The APC meets at least six times per year and is made up of three faculty members, five “stakeholders” from our school community, and the administrator. APC members serve three year terms and are selected as vacancies occur. The community member vacancies are filled by a majority vote of the parents from a candidate slate of two nominated by the outgoing board. The APC for the 2023-24 school year included Tanya Garnett (President and Effie parent), Bennett Wong (Vice President and Effie teacher), Josh Snow (Principal), Methanie Ongtooguk (Effie parent), Heather McFarlin (Effie parent) Olga Skinner (Secretary and UAF representative), Eliza Winfrey (Elder seat and parent), Michelle Sopoliga (Effie teacher), and Micah Bador (Effie classified staff member).

- Administrator -

Effie has a principal who has a type b certification. This is a change from the previous charter application. This change was made due to the unique demands of operating a charter high school and to put the school in the best possible position when recruiting future administrators. The principal is responsible for all administrative duties and communication between Effie and the FNSBSD administration. The Effie Academic Policy Committee evaluates the principal, supervises

- Students- Grades 7-12
- School Calendar and Times of Operation (see attachment)
- School Board Report (see attachment)

5. Funding:

The School District allocates funding in accordance with State Law, less administrative costs determined by applying the Department of Education and Early Development approved 4% indirect cost. An annual budget is submitted according to schedules established by the School District. The Charter School's program budget is used for operating expenses of the school's educational program, including the purchase of textbooks, classroom materials, and instructional aids, as well as student allotments.

Funds are made available on July 1 of each year and will continue under this Agreement. The amount of the budget will be adjusted following the ADM count period as established by the State of Alaska.

The Charter School may choose to carry over up to ten percent (10%) of the current, annual expenditures into a Charter School designated ending fund balance to be available for expending the following school year.

The Charter School may also receive revenues from grants and special revenue funds (beyond the per-pupil allocation) approved by the School District. Grants and special revenue funds received by the Charter School from the School District will pass directly into the operating fund and will be used as specified in grant requirements. All donations, gifts, and grants will be utilized to help accomplish the mission and goals of the school.

6. School District Charges:

The Charter School shall account for receipts and expenditures and comply with the FNSBSD's purchasing and accounting systems. The charter school agrees that it shall comply with all state and federal requirements for the receipt and use of public money. The Charter School will comply with all District, state, and federal audit requests.

7. Student Fees and Charges:

The Charter School shall not charge tuition to students who reside within the District. Any fees charged to students by the Charter School, including but not limited to supply and activity fees, shall be retained by the Charter School and included in the Charter School program budget. Charter fees must be clearly outlined in their school's charter.

8. Method of Accountability for Receipts and Expenditures:

Between December and March, the Charter School liaison will work with the School District Business Manager to develop a budget for the next school year. This will include the salaries of all staff at the Charter School. At this time a "projected" student count for the following year will be given. The estimate may be finalized at the May School Board meeting.

The Charter School acknowledges that adjustment to the Charter School budget may be necessary if the estimated revenues are revised due to School Board, legislative, and/or Borough Assembly action.

All funds will run through the normal School District financial process. The Charter School agrees that it shall comply with all State of Alaska and Federal requirements for the receipt and use of public funds.

9. Location and Description of Facility:

601 Loftus Rd. Fairbanks, AK 99709

The facility contains 16 classrooms, administrative offices, and other facilities as described as follows:

Description of facility

The Charter School warrants that the facility shall at all times comply with all local, state, and federal health and safety requirements applicable to public schools in the School District.

10. Teachers and Support Staff:

1. Administrator- Josh Snow
2. Teachers- Michelle Sopoliga, Eric Galloway, Farayal Ahmed, Michael Dean, Carla Kangas, Eileen Julien, Bennet Wong, James Brothers
3. Secretary- Erika Swanson
4. Custodial Staff
5. Other staff as required

The Charter School shall promptly provide the School District with written notice of any permanent changes to staff. It is agreed and understood that all employees will be recruited and employed through School District processes and that teachers must sign a written contract with the School District before providing services. Unless the School District and any association representing a teacher or support employee agree to an exemption, all provisions of an existing negotiated or collective bargaining agreement applicable to employees shall remain in effect while the employee provides services at Charter School.

11. Special Education:

Providing a Free and Appropriate Public Education is a joint responsibility of both the charter school and school district. Charter Schools are subject to all state and federal laws, including, but not limited to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Specifics related to these responsibilities are outlined in Appendix A.

12. Teacher to Student Ratio:

The Charter School shall maintain the following pupil-teacher ratios:

No more than 25-1

13. Enrollment:

The Charter School shall enroll a minimum of 135 students and a maximum number of 160 students at all times.

14. Retirement:

In accordance with and subject to the requirements of state law, eligible employees of the Charter School shall be members of the Teachers' Retirement System and eligible support employees shall be members of the Public Employees' Retirement System.

15. Risk Management:

The Charter School agrees to provide liability and risk insurance through the insurance program with Fairbanks North Star Borough. The Charter School agrees that it will coordinate all risk management activities through the Borough's risk management office. The Charter School shall not compromise, settle, negotiate, or otherwise affect any disposition of any actual or potential demands, claims, lawsuits, fines, judgments, or liabilities without first consulting with the School District and receiving the School District's written approval.

The Charter School agrees to operate in such a manner as to minimize the risk of injury or harm to students, employees, and others. The Charter School shall comply with all School Board policies and regulations, and comply with all applicable federal and state laws, concerning student welfare, safety, and health including, without limitation, School Board policies addressing the reporting of child abuse, accident prevention, and disaster response, and any state regulations governing the operation of school facilities.

16. Term:

The term of this Agreement shall be five years, effective upon complete execution by the School Board.

17. Program Evaluation:

During contract renewal, the school administrator shall oversee the preparation of a written report that provides an assessment of the Charter School program. The report will include information about:

- a. Student achievement assessment results
- b. Recommendation for remediation of poor student performance
- c. School goal attainment
- d. Student enrollment
- e. Description of charter school activities
- f. Meeting minutes
- g. List of Academic Policy Committee officers and members
- h. List of officers in any PTA/PTO or other parent organization
- i. Changes planned including changes to the contract and modifications to the charter

The Charter School will make a presentation to the School Board and the public. Written reports will be received by the district prior to the Charter School's presentation to the School Board. The presentation will include student achievement results, highlights of the year, and any changes being requested to the contract or charter.

18. Termination:

During the Charter Schools review with the School Board, compliance with the provisions of this Agreement will be reviewed. If any allegations of noncompliance with this Agreement are presented either during the review or at any other time, then the School Board, through the Superintendent or designee, shall investigate the allegations to determine what remedy is warranted for the alleged noncompliance.

The School Board may terminate this Agreement for:

- a. Failure by the Charter School to meet the educational achievement goals;
- b. Failure by the Charter School to meet fiscal management standards;
- c. Failure by the Charter School to abide by the Board Policies and Administrative Regulations of the School District;
- d. Default by the Charter School in any material provision in this agreement, or
- e. Other good cause as proven by the School Board.

The School Board shall provide ninety (90) days' written notice to the Charter School of its intent to terminate this Agreement. The notice shall include the reasons for its action and the specified time allotted for the situation to be remedied. If the Charter School fails to remedy the cause for termination within the time specified, this Agreement shall automatically terminate at the end of the specified time. The Charter School has thirty (30) days to appeal the School Board's decision to terminate this Agreement.

Upon termination, the Charter School has until a new semester starts which is not less than forty-five (45) contact days from the date of termination, to close the Charter School. For the welfare of the students, the School District shall work with the Charter School's staff and Academic Policy Committee to provide a smooth transition for all students into the appropriate School District schools.

At the close of the Charter School, any unused funds remaining and/or assets shall immediately be returned to the School District.

The Charter School may terminate this Agreement for the following school year by giving written notice to the School District on or before February 1 of a given school year of its intent to cease operations for the following year.

The Charter School will bear any legal costs incurred as a result of an investigation if non-compliance by the Charter School is verified.

19. Federal and State Use of Public Money:

The Charter School agrees to comply with all state and federal requirements for the receipt and use of public money.

The Charter School shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations including without limitation, the constitutional provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability, age, race, color, gender, national origin, or religion. The Charter School agrees that it shall operate as a nonsectarian public school.

20. Exemptions or Requirements Included in this Agreement (Waivers):

Waivers from FNSBSD Board Policy:

- 324.1- Assignment and Transfer of Building Administrator
- 921.1- Selection of Instructional Materials- Core Instructional Materials Selection and Review Process
- 921.2- Selection of Instructional Materials- Supplemental Instructional materials Selection
- 922- Request for Reevaluation of Instructional Materials- Parent Requests

Rationale: Effie Kokrine is waiving these policies according to the Alaska State Charter School Law which states that charter schools are exempt from District curriculum and

- 941.1- Allocation and Use of Instructional Time - School Year - School Calendar
- 941.2- Allocation and Use of Instructional Time - School Day - School Term
- 942.2- Allocation and Use of Instructional Time - School Day- Class Schedules
- 945- Allocation and Use of Instructional Time- Field Trips
- 1032.1- Attendance Areas- Establishment of Boundaries
- 1032.2- Attendance Areas- Out of Attendance Area
- 1074- Contests and Awarding of Prizes

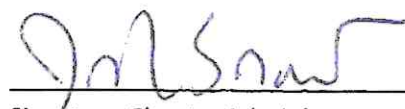
FEA Negotiated Agreement

502- Preparation Period

 5/28/25

Signature APC President

Date

 5/28/25

Signature Charter Administrator

Date

 11/3/25

Signature School District Official

Date

APPENDIX A

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District Charter School/Special Education Services Responsibilities

In an effort to help clarify financial roles and responsibilities for both charter school and Special Education department budget planning, the following guidelines apply. These guidelines do not represent a change in current policy practice but formally document responsibilities for special education services at charter schools within the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District.

Students with disabilities who attend charter schools are entitled to receive all rights under the IDEA, and may not be denied access to a charter school due to their disability.¹ The obligation to comply with the IDEA is not excused simply because a charter school does not have the infrastructure or staff to ensure IDEA compliance. Students in charter schools must be located, identified, and evaluated in accordance with the IDEA's child find provisions; be provided with IEPs; receive FAPE; be placed in the least restrictive environment; be taught by appropriately trained personnel; and be accorded the complete set of procedural safeguards under this law.²

It is the responsibility of both the Special Education Department and the individual charter schools to ensure compliance with state and federal law, and that these obligations are met.

Charter schools are responsible for:

- Hiring and supervising special education certified teachers and any support staff (including paraprofessionals and counselors) needed to meet the educational/related services needs of students for whom the charter school has been determined an appropriate, least restrictive environment.³
- Staff to ensure compliance with special education paperwork requirements, in coordination with the special education department.
- All instructional materials, assistive technology equipment, instructional technology, and hardware needed for evaluation of students.⁴

The Special Education department is responsible for:

- Providing administrative support for special education students in charter schools. This includes record keeping, long-term file maintenance support, and District coordination of IEPs and the IEP process.

¹ 34 CFR 300.209.

² 34 CFR 300.209.

³ Specialized positions in the related services can be difficult to recruit and hire for. In some cases these services may need to be provided virtually. In the event that a charter school requires more support from related services than outlined herein, it may be possible to make arrangements on a case-by-case basis for the district to make related services staff available on an hourly basis at service cost.

⁴ The Special Education department may assist, when necessary, to provide equipment for charter school special education students.

- Providing access to District electronic tools for evaluation and IEP development (PowerSchool Special Programs and Q-global/interactive).
- Training new special education staff at charter schools, as appropriate to their role, in the use of PowerSchool Special Programs, Special Education policy and procedures, Crisis Prevention Institute training, de-escalation, and special education evaluation instruments.
- Inviting charter school special education staff to District professional development opportunities, as appropriate.
- Consultation from assistive technology staff, as needed, for student IEP support.
- Related Services support for evaluation, IEP development, and supervision/implementation of student IEP services and accommodations support.



Effie Kokrine Charter SY24-25 Annual Report

1 Charter Overview & Organization:

Foundational Beliefs-

- Culture
Indigenous history and cultural practices are tied into the curriculum to allow students to gain knowledge about their family and culture.
- Values
The Alaska Native cultural values guide everything we do.
- Learning
Staff personalize learning for each student based on their life circumstances and academic interests.
- Relationships
Staff have strong relationships with students and families.
- Self-Sufficiency
Students leave our school with the tools needed to be self-sufficient, independent and to pursue their goals.

SCHOOL STATISTICS:

Certified Staff-
4 HS
2 JH
1 Special Education
Student Demographics-
90 % AK Native / American Indian
8 % Caucasian
2 % African American
28% Enrolled in SPED
67% Free or Reduced Lunch

2 Data Highlights:

MAP Testing Achievement Overview (Spring 25)

Math-
45% (1st-20th)
33% (21st-40th)
28% (41st-60th)
4% (61st-80th)

Reading-
26% (1st-20th)
40% (21st-40th)
38% (41st-60th)
8% (61st-80th)
4% (81st-)

Language Usage-
44% (1st-20th)
24% (21st-40th)
20% (41st-60th)
10% (61st-80th)
2% (81st-)

Attendance-
JH- 90.5 %
HS- 83.8 %

Graduation Rate-
23/24- 84.2%

3 Strategic or APC Goals:

#1 Student / Family Engagement-

- Increase the number of students attending 90% or more of classes.
- Increase opportunities for students to take leadership roles in planning activities and providing feedback about our classes and the school.

#2 Literacy-

- Utilize evidence-based vocabulary strategies across all grade levels and classes.
- Increase the reading growth in students in grades 7-9. (MAP Growth)

#3 Ak Native Culture-

- Offer cultural activities and opportunities for all students to practice traditional values.
- Increase the number of elders and cultural knowledge bearers working with students in the school.

4 Program Highlights

- Charter Application approved by State Board of Education.
- Students compete at State Declamation competition.
- Boys Basketball Team competes at State Tournament.
- 14 students (10th-12th grades) earn their 1st college credits.
- Student Leadership class submits *Transportation Resolution* and will travel to AASG Conference in Sitka (Spring 25).
- *Todaatetlughe (Smoke Tanned Hide Project)* awarded AK State Council of the Arts Grant.



2025-26 Academic Calendar

<https://ekc.k12northstar.org>

907-474-0958

601 Loftus Road

July 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

July

3-4 Holiday (Schools & District Offices Closed)

August

5 Teacher Work Day (No School)
6-8 Professional Development (No School)
11 Teacher Work Day (No School)
12 First Day of School

September

1 Holiday (Schools & District Offices Closed)
11 Early Dismissal @ 2 PM
12 Professional Development (No School)
15-19 Fall Break
26 Professional Day (No School)

October

10 Howard Luke Memorial Potlatch
13 Indigenous Peoples Day
17 End of 1st Quarter (Early Dismissal @ 2 PM)
30-31 Portfolio Conferences (No school)

November

14 Professional Development (No School)
26 Early Dismissal @ 2 PM
27-28 Holiday (Schools & District Offices Closed)

December

17-19 Early Dismissal @ 2 PM
19 End of 2nd Quarter (Early Dismissal @ 2 PM)
22-31 Winter Break (Schools Closed)

January

1 Holiday (Schools & District Offices Closed)
1-2 Winter Break (Schools Closed)
5 Teacher Work Day (No School)
6 Professional Development (No School)
19 Holiday (Schools & District Offices Closed)

February

12-13 Portfolio Conferences (No school)

March

6 End of 3rd Quarter (Early Dismissal @ 2 PM)
9-13 Spring Break (No School)
12-13 District Offices Close
20 Snowshoe Tea Race
30 Statewide Testing Window Begins

April

24 Professional Development (No School)

May

1 Early Dismissal @ 2 PM Statewide Testing Ends
8 Graduation
19-21 Early Dismissal @ 2 PM
21 Last Day of School
21 End of 4th Quarter
22 Teacher Work Day (No School)
25 Holiday (Schools & District Offices Closed)
26-28 Tentative Make-Up Days for Inclement Weather

January 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

□ First Day/Last Day of School
△ Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences**
◆ Professional Development Day**
○ Teacher Work Day**

■ Vacation**
○ Early Out*
□ End of Quarter*
*Early Out